

**Amended Claims**

1. (currently amended) An ultra-deep hydrodesulfurization process for reducing the content of sulfur compounds comprising alkylated benzothiophenes in a hydrocarbon feedstock to a sulfur content of less than 50 ppm, comprising subjecting a catalyst comprising a molybdenum component, a nickel component, and an organic additive on a carrier to a sulfidation step, and contacting a feedstock with a 95% boiling point of 450°C or less and a sulfur content of 500 ppm or less with the sulfided catalyst under conditions of elevated temperature and pressure to form a product with a sulfur content of less than 50 ppm.
2. (cancelled)
3. (previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the organic additive is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds comprising at least two hydroxyl groups and 2-10 carbon atoms, and the ethers and polyethers of these compounds.
4. (original) The process of claim 3 wherein the additive is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol and polyethylene glycol with a molecular weight between 200 and 600.
5. (original) The process of claim 3 wherein the additive is a saccharide or a polysaccharide.
6. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the additive comprises a compound comprising at least one covalently bonded nitrogen atom and at least one carbonyl moiety.

7. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the sulfidation step is carried out *in situ*, optionally using the feed which is to be subjected to ultra-deep HDS with the sulfided catalyst.

8. (currently amended) An ultra-deep two-step hydrodesulfurization process for reducing the content of sulfur compounds comprising alkylated benzothiophenes in a starting feedstock having a sulfur content of above 0.1 wt.% into a product having a sulfur content of 50 ppm or less, wherein the process comprises sulfidation of a first and a second catalyst said first catalyst comprising a Group VIB metal component, a Group VIII metal component, and an organic additive on a carrier, and said second catalyst comprising a molybdenum component, a nickel component and an organic additive on a carrier, contacting a feedstock with a 95% boiling point of 450°C or less and a sulfur content of 0.1 wt.% or more with the first sulfided catalyst under conditions of elevated temperature and pressure to form a product with a sulfur content of less than 500 ppm, and contacting the effluent from the first catalyst, optionally after fractionation or intermediate phase separation, with the second sulfided catalyst under conditions of elevated temperature and pressure to form a product with a sulfur content of less than 50 ppm.

9. (cancelled)